



The BRIDGE

VOLUME L
NUMBER 7

GAINESVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 17, 2008

Winter Drifts

The newspaper brought words of hope: “Braves pitchers and catchers report,” the story said. I need those words of hope. As I write this article, it’s 37 degrees, cloudy, and windy (again!). A huge winter storm is spreading a couple of feet of snow across the Midwest again today. I’m tired of the cold. I’m tired of trees with bare limbs. I’m tired of sweater and coat weather, and it seems to be in the forecast every weekend.



“Pitchers and catchers report!” Baseball and the Braves are coming again! Spring and warmth and new life are on the horizon. Smoltzie, Hudson, and McCann - “Tom Terrific” is back where he belongs. They’ll be followed shortly by Chipper, Teixeira, Francoeur, and the rest of the boys. Grapefruit League sunshine! I wish I could be there.

The almost-every-year Division Champion Braves are a parable of hope. They bring us life and excitement for another season, lift our spirits, and exemplify what it means to be a team. They teach us to strive against the odds. They teach us to persevere. They teach us to embrace change.

Pitchers and catchers report! Carpe Diem! Play hard. Do your best. You cannot reach those great highs and hopes without dedication, determination, and even a few heartbreaks. You will be a winner if you believe in yourself and your teammates. But you will not win every time and you will learn some of life’s most valuable lessons in those moments of loss. You learn to try again. There’s another game tomorrow, another chance, new hope.

Pitchers and catchers report! I love it!

Steve

Worship Services

Mission Possible:
Changing People's Lives

DRY' 3 DR 3 DR

John 3:1-17

8:30 a.m. & 10:55 a.m. Traditional Services in the Sanctuary

10:55 a.m. Contemporary Service in the Reception Hall

Dr. Terry Walton and Rev. Wendy Cordova

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ATTENDANCE 2/10/08

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary: 324
10:55 a.m. Living Waters: 160
10:55 a.m. Sanctuary: 643

Worship Totals: 1,127

Sunday School: 741

Ash Wednesday Services

11:30 a.m.: 58

6:30 p.m.: 345

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Bob Miller, Brian Miller** and my parents, **Jack and Bess Fraser**, in thankfulness for their lives, given by Judy Miller.

The flowers in the Chapel are from the Cobb/Durel wedding and are in memory of **Alva Drane "Coach" Watson, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Cobb, Mr. Jack Durel, Ms. Theresa May and Mr. & Mrs. Richard Farmer**, and in honor of **Mrs. Alva Drane "Miss Daisy" Watson and Mrs. Jack Durel**.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

In order to protect the privacy of our members we will not print the information that is normally listed under this heading in the online version of *The Bridge*.

If you are a member of GFUMC and would like to have access to this information, please contact Jackie Powers in the Church Office at 770.536.2341.

GREAT DAY OF SERVICE

Go to www.gfumc.com/gds for updates on all the Great Day of Service activities.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2008 - 2009

Tuesday, February 19 - Friday, February 22
Open to the Community.

Registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. You may call the Preschool at 770.534.0409 for additional information.



NEW TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S STUDY



Loving Well by Beth Moore

Begins Tuesday, March 5

10 a.m. in Room S-13/15

Facilitated by **Ginny Crumley**

Some people are a joy to love, some are difficult to love, and we all have to deal with some people who are humanly impossible to love. In all those relationships, one truth endures: We will never be able to love others until we have been loved well. And only God can ultimately give us the complete love we so desperately need. This is a four-week study. Cost is \$10. Register online or by calling the Church Office.

JOIN US DURING THE SEASON OF LENT

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH MARCH 12

Wednesdays through March 12

6 - 7 p.m. in the Gathering Room



Join us as we use different Christian practices to creatively encounter people who experienced transformation in the presence of Jesus. This Pastor's Bible study will provide you with a wonderful opportunity to grow your faith and learn in new ways.

Each week will follow the same theme as the Sunday morning sermon series *Mission Possible: Changing People's Lives*. Facilitated by **Rev. Wendy Cordova** and **Rev. Debby Fox**.



COMMUNITY
LENTEN SERVICES

This week at 12 noon
Wednesday, February 20
St. Paul United Methodist Church
(Washington St.)
Dr. Bill Coates, First Baptist Church

A light lunch will be served following each worship service for a suggested donation of \$3 per person. Loving childcare will be provided for children 5 years of age and younger. Each location features a guest preacher. GFUMC will host the service on **Wednesday, February 27**.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Heart Screens for Teens

Saturday, February 23
at Gainesville First UMC
Cost \$58

Providing parents peace of mind by helping to prevent sudden cardiac deaths among Georgia's kids from ages 11 - 18 years of age. Normally, the cost of this echocardiogram can range anywhere from \$900 to \$1,500 and is usually not covered by insurance. Find out more information on this program at www.heartscreensforteens.com. Sign up to have your teen tested by calling **Lori Floyd**, Parish Nurse, or **Beth Swenson** at 770.536.2341.

FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP

1st & 3rd Thursdays

Next meeting: February 21
2 - 3:15 p.m. in Room S-12

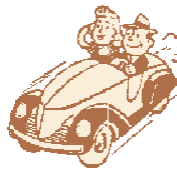
Do you suffer from Fibromyalgia? A Fibromyalgia Support Group will meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month at GFUMC. For more information, contact **Anna** at 770.531.0861 or **Kathy** at 678.464.2090.



“My whole family’s giving up something for Lent. Mom’s giving up cookies, Dad’s giving up cake, and I’m giving up squash.”

OLDER ADULTS

GADABOUTS
Wednesday,
February 20
11 a.m. in the
Reception Hall



Dr. Sami Ammari, a Baptist minister from Jordan, will be sharing his worldwide experiences followed by a musical program.



50+

Monday, February 25
6 p.m. in the Reception Hall

Michael Lipina, Chief Park Ranger, with the Corp of Engineers will be our guest speaker. Bring a covered dish to share.

UMW NEWS

JOY CIRCLE

Monday, February 18
11 a.m. in Room S-14 at GFUMC.



2008 MISSION PROJECT

This year the UMW will focus on “Clean Water” as our mission project: The UMCOR Advance #525000, Clean Water and Sanitation, Nicaragua. UMCOR is working with El Porvenir using simple technology and basic materials for community construction of hand-dug wells. Join with us by making a donation to help our neighbors in Nicaragua have access to clean drinking water.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Mission Trip



April 6 - 10

Faith Christian School for the Deaf & Harvest Deaf Bible College

We are really excited to be offering a mission trip to Ringold, Ga. open to all students grades 6-12. We'll help renovate existing buildings. Prayerfully consider allowing your child to participate in this wonderful mission opportunity. Forms are in the Church Office, the Youth Hall, and on the desk just inside the entrance to the MAC.

S.A.L.T.

STUDENT ACTION LEADERSHIP TEAM

SALT application packets are now available for the 2008-2009 school year. If your child will be in 8th grade or above next year and might be interested in serving on SALT, please pick up a packet in the Youth Hall.



**Young
Adults**
(College age)

We'd like to encourage you to attend and check out **ICHTHYS Sunday School** class on Sunday mornings in Room S-142 at 9:45 a.m.

In addition we are really excited to be offering a mission trip to the **Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf** in Jamaica the week of August 2-9, 2008. For more information, please contact **David Burchett** or **Zach Propes**.

GREAT DAY OF SERVICE . . . REACHING AROUND THE WORLD



While our Great Day of Service focuses primarily on volunteer efforts in our local community, we also extend helping hands across the globe. Donations of specific items are an important part of serving and enable us to provide additional help to the missions we support on an ongoing basis. Please pick up a **Donation Wish List** to take with you as you shop during the next few weeks. This list is also posted on the website at www.gfumc.com/gds and available in the informational brochure. Keep in mind that only these specific items are requested.

Collection bin #1, located in the MAC area, is for the non-perishable food for the Community Food Pantry; sunscreen for In His Wakes, a project proposed by the family and friends of Evan King; yarn, knitting needles, and quilt batting for our Congregational Care projects of prayer shawls and prayer quilts; and books for the RYDC (Regional Youth Detention Center).

Collection bin #2, located in the Gathering Room, is for children's "cros" style shoes for the children at Orphanage Emmanuel in Honduras and for the Herrin's mission in Venezuela; men's and women's clothing for churches in Romania; Layette Kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief); notebooks, pencils, crayons, etc. for the children in the Sunday Schools of Pastor Jano and Liliana Sjanta in Serbia; and contributions to support scholarships for children at the Caribbean Christian School for the Deaf in Jamaica.

Collection bin #3, located in the Children's Wing, is for donations of children's books for our Gateway Partner, WATS (West African Theological Seminary), in Nigeria.

Collection bins will be available beginning this **Sunday, February 17** to receive donations from the Wish List. Providing items from the GDS Donation Wish List is an important part of our overall Great Day of Service and will help us to meet the needs of some of these organizations. Thank you for your generous donations!

*EVERYONE
KNOWS OURS*

___ \$14 potted azalea

___ \$3 lilies to decorate Cross



(Please print.)

In memory of: _____

In honor: _____

Given by: _____

The deadline for orders is **Monday, March 3, 2008**. Payment **MUST** accompany the order. Please do not mail orders, instead bring to the Church Office or place in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS CONTINUED

CONGRATULATIONS

Knowles Lee Thompson

was born on February 7, 2008.

His parents are
Ryan and Elizabeth Thompson.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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FAMILY SUPPER
Wednesday, February 20
 5 - 6:30 p.m.
 in the GREAT Room



**Southern Style Chili with Beans,
 Baked Potatoes, Cheese Biscuits,
 Garden Green Salad Bar, Potato Bar Fixins',
 Broccoli Salad, Fresh Seasonal Fruit,
 and Carrot Cake**

Kid's Meal: Pizza

Cost: \$5/adult, \$3/child, \$15 family maximum. Call **Stan Bearden** at 770.536.2341 ext. 114, by 12 noon on Monday of each week to make your reservation for supper.



**God's call for the future
 of Gainesville First
 United Methodist
 Church**

Do you have ideas? The members of Gainesville First UMC are invited to join the Discernment Team on **Saturday, March 1** from **8:30 - 11:30 a.m.** in the GREAT Room for round-table discussion.

The Discernment Team has been meeting with Sunday school classes and now want to meet with the larger church. A nursery will be provided for children 5 years and younger. Please register by calling the Church Office, so we can plan for the day's activities.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



**MAC Madness
 Basketball
 Tournament
 February 19 - March 6**

We are looking for people to help with this great upcoming event. Hundreds of children, parents, and coaches will participate in our basketball tournament. Please call **Robert Sapp** or **Pam Spivey** in the Church Office or come to the Gathering Room to sign up on Sunday mornings to let us know in which area you can volunteer: **Take up Tickets, Concessions, or Score Table.**

Calendar

FEBRUARY 17 - 24, 2008



SUNDAY - February 17

- 8:30 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:45 Library open til 11 a.m.
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:55 Kid's Church
- 10:55 Living Waters Contemporary Worship in the Reception Hall
- 10:55 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 4:00 GriefShare Support Group
- 4:00 Youth Choir
- 5:00 Crown Financial Study
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 5:00 The Harbor (Youth Fellowship)
- 6:00 Transitions Bible Study for Singles
- 7:00 MSL: Methodist Sports League (Youth)

MONDAY - February 18

- President's Day*
- 8:00 Teaching Parish
- 9:00 Aerobics
- 9:00 Methodist Men Cooking
- 10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
- 12:00 Emmaus Reunion Group
- 4:00 Bible Club & Tutoring
- 5:30 Youth Basketball Practice (until 7:30)
- 6:30 Disciple II
- 7:00 Highlands Church Bible Study
- 7:30 Adult Bells
- 7:30 Adult Basketball

TUESDAY - February 19

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study: Job
- 8:30 Christ Centered Yoga
- 9:00 Intercessory Prayer Group
- 9:30 Believers Band Practice
- 10:00 Intimate Issues Bible Study
- 10:00 Living A Purpose-Full Life Bible Study
- 10:00 Stepping Up Bible Study
- 4:00 Library Meeting
- 5:30 MAC Madness Basketball Tournament
- 6:00 Believers Band Practice
- 6:30 Boy Scout Executive Board Meeting
- 8:00 MLC Band Practice

WEDNESDAY - February 20

- 9:00 Aerobics
- 11:00 Gadabouts
- 3:00 Bridge
- 4:00 Mime Practice
- 5:00 Family Supper
- 6:00 A Lenten Experience: The Road to Jerusalem
- 6:00 Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Children's Council & Friends
- 6:00 Disciple IV
- 6:00 Islam, Christianity, & Judaism Bible Study
- 6:00 Refresh/Recharge
- 6:00 Youth Bells
- 6:15 Youth Bible Studies
- 6:30 Living Waters Praise Team
- 6:30 Men's Bible Study: John
- 6:45 Children's Bible Studies
- 7:00 Chancel Choir

THURSDAY - February 21

- 9:30 Disciple IV (at Lanier Village Estates)
- 10:00 Prayer Quilts
- 2:00 Fibromyalgia Support Group
- 4:00 Secret Keeper Girls' Retreat
- 5:30 MAC Madness Basketball Tournament
- 7:00 Ballroom Dance

FRIDAY - February 22

- 9:00 Aerobics
- 10:00 Active Older Adult Aerobics
- 5:30 MAC Madness Basketball Tournament

SATURDAY - February 23

- 8:30 Heart Screens for Teens
- 9:00 Emmaus
- 9:00 MAC Madness Basketball Tournament



SUNDAY - February 24

- 8:30 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:45 Library open til 11 a.m.
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 10:55 Kid's Church
- 10:55 Living Waters Contemporary Worship in the Reception Hall
- 10:55 Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 2:00 Girl Scout Troop #806
- 3:15 Cub Scout Meeting
- 4:00 GriefShare Support Group
- 4:00 Youth Choir
- 5:00 Crown Financial Study
- 5:00 Disciple I
- 5:00 The Harbor (Youth Fellowship)
- 7:00 MSL: Methodist Sports League (Youth)

CHRIST CENTERED YOGA

New session begins

Tuesday, February 26

8:30-9:50 a.m. in the Reception Hall
 Instructor: Becky Martin, R.Y.T.
 Cost: \$60 in advance, or \$12/session.



Contact Us

If you have an emergency after office hours, on the weekend, or over a holiday, and need to speak with a pastor, please call the Church Office at 770.536.2341. The voice mail recording gives you the option to select an emergency contact. Press "5" and follow the instructions. Thank you.

Pastoral Staff at Gainesville First United Methodist Church:

Name	Title	Ext.	Email
Rev. David Burchett	Director of Student Ministry	115	dburchett@gfumc.com
Rev. Wendy Cordova	Pastor of Evangelism & Discipleship	135	wcordova@gfumc.com
Rev. Debby Fox	Pastor of Christian Education	149	dfox@gfumc.com
Rev. Tom Jones	Pastor of Congregational Care & Older Adults	119	tjones@gfumc.com
Dr. Terry Walton	Senior Pastor	109	twalton@gfumc.com
Dr. Steve Winter	Executive Pastor	141	swinter@gfumc.com

2780 Thompson Bridge Road, NE • Gainesville, Georgia 30506
Church Office Phone: 770.536.2341 • Fax: 770.534.7914
Website: www.gfumc.com • Preschool Phone: 770.534.0409

CARE AND COUNSELING CENTER of Gainesville



You are not alone. Counseling can help and heal. Call 770.533.5702 for an appointment or for more information.

DEVOTION & PRAYER LINE

Call 678-343-2733 to hear a brief devotional and prayer from one of the pastors of GFUMC. Prayer requests are forwarded to the pastoral staff.



PRAYER PAGER MINISTRY



NEW!

Cameron Bowden
770.201.0263

Tonya Gore
Angela Burrell's niece
770.201.0867

Don Little
770.390.4021

Faye Shadburn
770.201.0429

Katie Tulin
1.800.200.6848

*Let these people
know you are
thinking of them.
It's easy!*

*Pray! Dial the phone
number for the person
you prayed for. (You
will hear 3 beeps.) Dial
111# & hang up.*

WESLEYAN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

The official news source for
Georgia United Methodists

Only \$25

(\$23, if you're over age 65)

**Stay informed! Fill out the
tear off in the Sunday bulletin!**



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